

Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 022701-915



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of )  
Gerald BOCQUENET et al. ) Group Art Unit: 1626  
Application No.: 09/720,598 / ) Examiner: Ebenezer O. Sackey  
Filed: May 7, 2001 ) Confirmation No.: 2355  
For: METHOD FOR EVAPORATING )  
AMINONITRILE )

**AMENDMENT/REPLY TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RECEIVED**

JUL 03 2003

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply for the above-identified patent application.

☒ A Petition for Extension of Time is also enclosed.

☐ A Terminal Disclaimer and the ☐ \$55.00 (2814) ☐ \$110.00 (1814) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.20(d) are also enclosed.

☒ Also enclosed is/are a verified translation of the priority document (FR 98/08258).

☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

☐ Applicant(s) request continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and enclose the ☐ \$375.00 (2801) ☐ \$750.00 (1801) fee due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e).

☐ Applicant(s) previously submitted \_\_\_, on \_\_\_, for which continued examination is requested.

☐ Applicant(s) request suspension of action by the Office until at least \_\_\_, which does not exceed three months from the filing of this RCE, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c). The required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) is enclosed.

☐ A Request for Entry and Consideration of Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) (1809/2809) is also enclosed.

(02/03)

☒ No additional claim fee is required.

☐ An additional claim fee is required, and is calculated as shown below:

A M E N D E D   C L A I M S					
	NO. OF CLAIMS	HIGHEST NO. OF CLAIMS PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	EXTRA CLAIMS	RATE	ADDT'L FEE
Total Claims	18	MINUS 20 =	0	× \$18.00 (1202) =	\$0.00
Independent Claims	1	MINUS 3 =	0	× \$84.00 (1201) =	0.00
If Amendment adds multiple dependent claims, add \$280.00 (1203)					
Total Amendment Fee					0.00
If small entity status is claimed, subtract 50% of Total Amendment Fee					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE DUE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00

☐ A claim fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

☐ Charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17, 1.20(d) and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. This paper is submitted in duplicate.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	<b>BOX: NON-FEE AMENDMENT</b>
Gerald BOCQUENET et al.	)	
Application No.: 09/720,598	)	Group Art Unit: 1626
Filed: May 7, 2001	)	Examiner: Ebenezer O. Sackey
For: METHOD FOR EVAPORATING	)	Confirmation No.: 2355
AMINONITRILE	)	

**AMENDMENT AND SUBMISSION OF VERIFIED ENGLISH  
TRANSLATION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed December 31, 2002, Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Please replace claims 22-33 as follows:*

22. (Amended) Process for producing a lactam by a reaction between water vapor and an aminonitrile in vapor phase and in presence of a catalyst, comprising providing water in vapor phase to an evaporator, and vaporizing the aminonitrile by feeding the aminonitrile in liquid phase to the evaporator, wherein the aminonitrile in liquid phase is contacted with the water vapor in the evaporator, and subsequently introducing the resulting mixture of aminonitrile and water vapor into a hydrolysis reactor in which the resulting mixture is contacted with the catalyst.